

Local

Russell/Cooper Band mixes harmony with humor

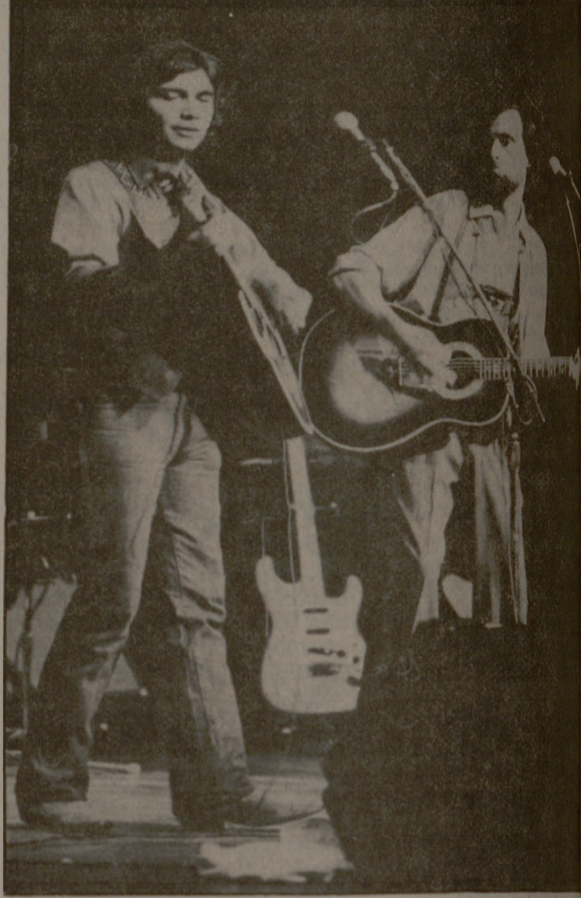
By GARY BARKER
Battalion Reporter
The Shake Russell/Dana Cooper Band thrilled an audience in Rudder Auditorium Wednesday night with its impressive mixture of harmonies, humor, and foot-stompin' music.
The band, led by Shake Russell and Dana Cooper — both guitar players and vocalists — rocked the capacity audience early in the concert with their popular tune "Song on the Radio."
Bass player Michael Mashkes, affectionately known as "Marcello Marconi" to his fans, nearly stole the show with his humor and

monologues during the band's songs "Pretty as a Picture" and "Galavatin' Galveston Gal."
Russell and Cooper, whose voices blended flawlessly, were backed up by band members Riley Osbourn on piano, Jim Alderman on drums and accordian, and Jim Tiemann on guitar.
The band, playing in College Station for the fourth time in the past year, got standing ovations several times during the show. The audience seemed to enjoy the band's versatility, which included such musical styles as bluegrass, jazz, country-western, and rock.
And to a hushed crowd the band

performed its softer tunes. One of the band's best slow songs was "Silver Hearts," written and play-

ed by Russell. He said he was inspired to write the song, about two life-long lovers, when he saw an older couple holding hands in a bus depot.
Cooper also played a slow solo, but his voice seemed slightly incomplete without Russell's to accompany it.
Singer-songwriter Jean Kilborn, who sang with the band on two songs, warmed up the crowd with several of her own songs before the band came out. Kilborn, who played guitar and piano, wooed the audience with her vocal range. After Kilborn played for 50

minutes, the band appeared and was greeted with a warm welcome.
The most ironic song of the evening was the band's "So Hard to Find a Smile," about a man who leaves town because he can find no smiles. This was hardly the case with the Shake Russell/Dana Cooper Band, who left miles of smiles when they left College Station.



Shake Russell (l) and Dana Cooper (r) play their version of acoustic rock to a full Rudder Auditorium Wednesday night.

Review

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Band strives for intimacy with fans

By TOM SOLOMON
Battalion Reporter
Although the Shake Russell/Dana Cooper Band plays to consistently bigger audiences in bigger concert halls each time it returns to Bryan-College Station, the band members don't think they are growing distant from their fans.
Russell and Cooper, along with other band members Michael Mashkes, Riley Osbourn, Jim Alderman, and Jim Tiemann talked Wednesday about the growth in their popularity during an interview before their near-sell-out concert in the 2,500-seat Rudder Auditorium.
Although the auditorium is one of the biggest halls the band has played in, Russell said its size doesn't take away from the closeness the band feels with its fans.
"This (Rudder Auditorium) is nice — it's 2,400 seats but it's still intimate," Russell said. "We like this kind of environment — the acoustical setting, the lights."

"We still play some smaller clubs in Houston," Alderman said.
The band plays about 15 dates a month, Russell said, and spends a lot of time on the road traveling to the concerts.
Although the band spends most of its time giving concerts, it does have plans for another record, while the band's self-titled current album is still selling well at many Texas record stores.
"We'll have a new album out in the next three or four months," Russell said. "We're still in the planning stages. It's going to be a collaborative album with John Vandiver and Michael Marcoulier and his band."
Vandiver and Marcoulier are two Texas musicians Russell and Cooper have performed with before.
"John will pick two or three of his songs we usually do together in shows, and Michael will do the same," Russell said. "We're going

to get into the studio (to record the album) in November and have it out the first part of December, if there's no hangups."
Among the songs to be included in the album are Cooper's song "Jubilation," a familiar tune to those who attend the band's concerts, but one not on the band's two albums.
"We'll be selling it at our shows and ... stores we've made contact with."
"We'd like to do a live album on down the road, (but) no time in the near future," Russell said.
While the band has no further concerts scheduled in Bryan-College Station this semester, it will be playing in Houston at the Rockefeller Club tonight and Friday.

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Missionaries air concern over Third World poverty

By STEPHEN M. WARD
Battalion Reporter
Two-thirds of the world's 4.5 billion people lack the basic human needs to survive, two Mary-noll missionaries said Tuesday night at St. Mary's Catholic Church.
Sisters Jane Heekathorn and Josephine Lecker told parishoners these 2.7 billion people live in the

Third World countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America.
"What we are trying to do is make people aware of facts about situations which they often don't hear about," said Lecker, who has worked in Africa as a missionary for the past 22 years.
Sister Heekathorn said the World Health Organization says 70 percent of the earth's popula-

tion — almost all of it Third World — doesn't have the five basic human needs: shelter and food and water, medical care and education. Sister Heekathorn spent 11 years as a missionary in the Philippines.
Human subsistence, she means having a roof over head, protective clothing, calories a day, clean drinking water, medical facilities, and day's travel, a job to satisfy worth and a fourth grade education.
But, Heekathorn said, World nations do not want dictated by the more powerful nations.
Lecker recommended the "North/South, A Program for Survival," the report of the inter-departmental commission on international developmental issues. She said, "Anyone who wants to understand more about the widening gap between the rich and the poor do well to spend time reading this report."
"I am concerned that we are not able to hear the voices of these countries as well as our own," she said. "We want to try to look at the challenge that exists to meet the situations and problems which exist."

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